

Gunsmithing – NRA

Advisory Committee Meeting

Fall 2013

First let me personally thank each and every one of you for taking the time out of your busy schedule and agreeing to be a member of this committee. It is your input that helps us shape our program, to remain current and to continue to be the premier Gunsmithing program in the nation.

Last year's progress:

1. We moved the welding classes to the welding department, Monday & Wednesday evenings, semester in length. The hope is the students will gain better mastery & retention of this necessary skill.
2. We rewrote the machine shop classes (added three weeks), we also split the machine shop classes, six at the beginning of the semester and three at the end. Here again by expanding these classes not only are we adding new skills but we also expect better retention of these skills.
3. Changes in the degrees and certificates to reflect the changes in 1 & 2 above.
4. With the help of the CTE grant we did purchase a new lathe (Lagun 13X40) that matches our newer lathes.

Questions for the upcoming year:

1. Curriculum:
 - a. Rewrite GSS 61.03 Colt Revolvers to Ruger Revolvers. With Colts becoming scarcer it has become very hard and very expensive for the students to obtain these guns, it's also becoming less useful when they graduate.

Support

Oppose

- b. Elimination of GSS 69.04 Non-Bolt Action Feeding, I believe there is ample time in the appropriate classes (Auto Rifles, Lever Rifles etc.) to add these projects. A replacement class hasn't been suggested yet. Please do.

Support Oppose

- c. Rewrite GSS 66.03 .22 Barrel Fitting to include barrel lining. A skill which I have used many times myself and believe would be of great benefit to our graduates.

Support Oppose

2. Facilities:

- a. As noted in our IPR, the program currently has five lathes and three mills that are in desperate need of replacement. Ideas for funding would be helpful.

Support Oppose

- b. As noted in our IPR, the program is in need of updating our testfire system from a dry, exposed system to a new, safer wet system that could be enclosed to help with noise abatement.

Support Oppose

- c. As noted in our IPR, the program is in desperate need of a storage area adjacent to the gunsmithing building. Moving the equipment across campus is not only time consuming but very detrimental to some of this equipment. This project was sent to the facilities planning committee several years ago where apparently died so we will try again.

Support Oppose

- d. As noted in our IPR, **the program has out grown its current facility and is in need of a larger facility.** This year alone we turned away 41 potential full time students that went through the process to get on the waiting list. We have no idea how many just applied to another school. While our summer program is down in enrollment due to lack of effective recruitment. The program is also down to one classroom with the relocation of student services to the vocational building several years ago.

Support Oppose

3. Budget:

- a. **Any increase to the supply budget.** The programs supply budget has basically remained stagnate for at least the last ten years and in the face of increased student load and the increases in the costs of supplies our ability to supply the basic needs of our students is in question. Despite the repeated requested for increases to our supply budget, in our IPRs and budget enhancement forms, our ability to provide the basic needs for our student's remains in question. This year's supply budget is actually four hundred dollars smaller than it was in 2001.

Support Oppose

- b. Equipment repair budget is totally inadequate and needs to be increased. Yearly allocations for this budget typically run \$800.00. Just replacement parts can run as high as \$2500.00 in an average school year. The difference between the two comes out of our supply budget further reducing our ability to provide for our students.

Support Oppose

- c. Travel Budget needs to be increased if we are going to have effective recruiting for the summer program. Our travel budget has also remained stagnate over the years. The decrease in recruiting is obvious if you look at the summer enrollment, it has declined from its peak over 650 students to around 400 for summer 2013.

Support Oppose

That concludes the questions I have for you.

My plan is to update you in the spring of 2014 and there may be additional questions I will need your help with.

I do have some program news that you should be aware of concerning faculty. Andrew Faircloth has taken a one year leave of absence. I hope to see Andy back for the fall of 2014. In the mean time we have hired a temporary replacement, Buck Bauer. Buck has worked at Nosler, Honey Lake Firearms and J&G Gunsmithing as well as in his own shop. I believe Buck will be a great asset to the program over the next year and possibly into future.

Please respond no later than September 5, so your opinion can be included in the 2013 Program Review. Any additional questions/comments/concerns would be more than welcome and encouraged. This can be filled out and returned by email or printed filled out and mailed back to me at the address below.

If you have any questions or need to contact me I can be reached at 530-251-8809 or by email.

Again I would like to thank you for your time and consideration.

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